CLAIMS

1. A tape measure having:
a spooled measuring blade mounted via mounting means within a casing, the spooled measuring blade being rotatable with respect to the case about a rotation axis; and
resilient means interposed in the mounting means between the spooled blade and the case, wherein the resilient means permits but urges against displacement of the spooled blade with respect to the case.

2. A tape measure according to claim 1 wherein the spooled blade is rotatable with respect to the resilient means.

3. A tape measure according to claim 2 wherein the resilient means is interposed between the casing and an axle element which is fixed with respect to the casing.

4. A tape measure according to claim 2 or claim 3 wherein the resilient member is a bush or cup.

5. A tape measure according to claim 1 wherein the mounting means includes a spooling device and the resilient means is rotatable with the spooling device with respect to the casing.

6. A tape measure according to claim 5 wherein the spooling device has a side member which acts to guide the blade during spooling and unspooling, the resilient member being formed in the side portion.

7. A tape measure according to claim 5 or claim 6 wherein the spooled blade is located on an outer portion of the spooling device.

8. A tape measure according to claim 7 wherein the resilient member is formed in the spooling device and is located between the outer portion of the spooling device and a bearing surface of the spooling device.

9. A tape measure according to claim 8 wherein the resilient member is a connecting element which connects the outer portion of the spooling device to the bearing surface of the spooling device, the connecting element being shaped so that at least a part has a transverse component of force acting to bend it under a force acting radially between the bearing surface and the outer portion.

10. A tape measure according to claim 10 wherein the resilient member is a series of connecting elements disposed around the bearing surface.

11. A tape measure according to claim 10 wherein the connecting elements form a spiral shape from the outer portion towards the bearing surface or are selected from S-shape, Z-shape, W-shape, V-shape, U-shape, C-shape, L-shape, dog-leg shape, concertina-shape, or combinations thereof.

12. A tape measure according to claim 10 or claim 11 wherein gaps between adjacent spokes/struts are filled with a resilient or shock-absorbing material.

13. A tape measure having a spooled measuring blade mounted via a spooling device within a case, the spooled measuring blade and the spooling device being rotatable with respect to the case about a rotation axis; and stop means located to abut against cooperating means on the spooling device on displacement of the spooling device with respect to the case.

14. A tape measure according to claim 13 wherein the stop means is located so that displacement of the spooling device with respect to the casing is stopped or urged against at a displacement less than that required to cause failure or damage to an axle element about which the spooling device is rotatable.

15. A tape measure according to claim 13 or claim 14 wherein the stop means is a step, protrusion or recess formed in the inner surface of a side wall of the casing

and the corresponding cooperating means on the spooling device is a step, recess or protrusion, respectively.

16. A tape measure according to claim 15 wherein the stop member is an annular stop ring connected to or formed in the casing and extending adjacent to the spooling device.

17. A tape measure according to any one of claims 13-16 and further including all of the features of any one of claims 1-12.

18. A tape measure having a spooled measuring blade mounted within a case, and resilient means selectively located at the outer surface of the case, the location or locations of the resilient means being selected according to the vulnerability to impact of the location or locations.

19. A tape measure according to claim 18 wherein the selected locations are at least one of a tape mouth, a switch and the corners of the case.

20. A tape measure according to claim 18 or claim 19 wherein the resilient means is formed by moulding-in resilient material into corresponding recesses formed in the casing.

21. A tape measure according to any one of claims 18-20 further including the features of any one of claims 1-19.

22. A method of forming a tape measure having a casing enclosing a spooled measuring blade, the method including the steps of:
moulding a casing section by injection moulding of a first material in a mould tool; and
injection moulding a second, resilient material into at least one predetermined location in the mould tool so that the resilient material is moulded into a selected location of the casing section.

23. A method according to claim 22 used to make a tape measure according to any one of claims 1-21.